

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Introduction:

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, and 16 have been amended, and claims 2, 10-13, and 25-39 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3-9, and 14-24 are now pending in the application. Applicants note that the amendments to the claims were made to clarify the claims and overcome objections to the claims rather than for patentability reasons. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Remarks:

The title was objected to, and as required, a new title has been provided.

Claims 1-9 and 14-24 were objected to due to various informalities. Claims 1, 4, 8, and 14 have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns. Moreover, with respect to claim 1, any one of more of traces 208 and edge connectors 204, as well as the electrical connections (not shown in the drawings) between base controller 210 and traces 208, are non-limiting examples of the "first connectors." Probes 228a-g are non-limiting examples of the "second connectors." Similarly, probes 228a-g are non-limiting examples of the "connectors" of claim 14. With regard to claim 24, Applicants note that claim 24 expressly states that the "substrate," which is recited in claim 14, "composes a probe card." Thus, claim 24 expressly interrelates the probe card with the substrate element of claim 14.

The drawings were objected to on the grounds that the connectors of claims 1 and 14 are not shown. As discussed above, however, traces 208 or edge connectors 204 are non-limiting examples of the "first connectors" of claim 1. (As noted above, electrical connections (not shown in the drawings) between base controller 210 and traces 208 are also non-limiting examples of the "first connectors" of claim 1.) Probes 228a-g are non-limiting examples of the "second connectors" of claim 1. Similarly, probes 228a-g are non-limiting examples of the "connectors" of claim 14. Therefore, examples of the connectors of claims 1 and 14 are illustrated in the drawings.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 9 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of US Patent No. 6,236,223 to Brady et al. ("Brady") and US Patent No. 5,225,775 to Sekino ("Sekino").

Applicants note that claims 2, 4, 8, and 14-24 were not rejected in view of prior art. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2, and Applicants have rewritten claims 4 and 8 in independent form. Claim 14 was already in independent form. Therefore, each of now independent claims 1, 4, 8, and 14 should be in condition for allowance.

Moreover, each of the remaining claims—claims 3, 5-7, 9, and 15-24—depends from one of claims 1 or 14. Therefore, each of claims 3, 5-7, 9, and 15-24 should also be in condition for allowance.

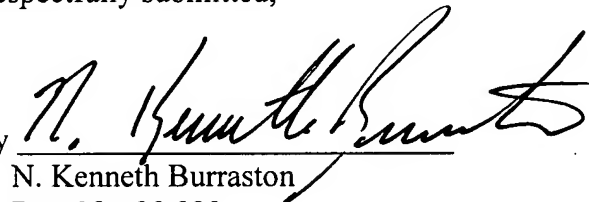
Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicant's attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5944.

Respectfully submitted,

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